Subject No. 226.

Control of Revenue Department over Channel and Conservancy work and Establishment, where Channels are made over to it.

Summary of discussion.—Under the present system some channels are made over to the Revenue Department for irrigation purposes, and yet the Revenue authorities have no control over the channel establishment. Hence minor Servants, such as Manegars and Saudis neglect their work and cause a great deal of annoyance to the raiyats. In many cases, they intentionally diminish the supply of water in the channels. Therefore the following suggestions are submitted:—

(1). When the channels are under the control of the Revenue authorities, they should have full power to reward and punish the establishment.

(2). The annual repairs, *viz.*, the removal of weeds and silt should be entirely left to the Revenue authorities.

(3). The Public Works Department should hand over the amount sanctioned for the removal of the silt to Revenue authorities, who should get the work done by the raiyats of the villages concerned (as is being very easily done in the case of bandhs on banjar lands) and skilled labor such as masonry, should be undertaken by the Public Works Department.

If the above arrangement is sanctioned, there will be no complaint about the non-supply of water. At present, there are constant complaints on this subject and the Revenue authorities get hundreds of petitions during the cultivating season.

Dewan's reply.—(After some discussion with the Chief Engineer, and some of the Representatives from Taluks which have river channels in them). As to the first proposal, detailed orders will be given. The charge and control of the head sluice will require to remain with the Public Works Department, as its management requires professional knowledge and experience. The minor conservancy establishment during the irrigation season, when the channels are under Revenue Officers, must doubtless be under their control and liable to be punished by them for dereliction of duty. There is difficulty only as regards the Sub-Overseer who has duties connected both with the charge of the head sluice, and also with the supervision of

the minor establishment, the minor distribution of water in the channel and generally with what may be called the regimen of the channel. In the discharge of the latter class of his duties, he must be regarded as subordinate and amenable to the Revenue authorities. As to the other proposals, there is no objection to Patels or local raiyats taking up by sections the contract for the removal of silt in channel beds every year. The Public Works Department will give them the contracts in convenient sections, if tenders are submitted either directly or through the Deputy Commissioner or Amildār. The sections will be, not with reference to village boundaries, but by mile and furlong sections of the channel itself.

Subject No. 227.

Relief to Seringapatam Municipality of Town Police Charges.

Summary of discussion.—The Municipality of the Town of Seringapatm and Ganjam is poor, its revenue being only about Rs. 9,000. The town is an ancient one, and of historical importance. Princes, noblemen and gentlemen from all parts of the world visit the place. The present revenue is hardly sufficient for the maintenance of the extensive permanent establishment necessary for the conservancy, &c., of the Town. The cost of the Police takes up nearly a third of the revenue. The remainder is not sufficient for roads, drains, &c. The Government should therefore bear the full cost of the Town Police.

Dewan's reply.—The point will be considered. *Vide* reply given on a similar representation from the Kadur District (Subject No. 3 *supra*).

Subject No. 228.

Reduction of Municipal Tax on Single bullock carts in Seringapatam.

Summary of discussion.—In the Mysore Municipality, a tax of 1 Rupee is levied on a single bullock cart, but in Seringapatam it is fixed at Rs. 2. It is therefore requested that the rate prevailing in the Mysore Municipality may be adopted in Seringapatam also.

Dewan's reply.—This may be done.

Subject No. 229.

Refund of Octroi on goods which pay octroi both where bulk is broken and where they are consumed.

Summary of discussion.—Articles on which Octroi duty has once been paid in one Municipality should not be subjected to payment, again if taken to another Municipality.

Dewan's reply.—Rules will issue early (*vide* Subject No. 72 *supra*).

Subject No. 230.

Reduction of assessment on melon cultivation.

Summary of discussion.—The cultivation of melons in the bed of the Cauvery River is assessed at Rs. 12 an acre. This is too high.

Dewan's reply.—It is the usual kadim rate, and under the circumstances, does not seem too high. Cultivation in river beds requires to be discouraged.